

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 32-33 and 35-37 are requested to be canceled.

Claim 16 is currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 16-28 and 31 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 35 and 37 were objected as being substantial duplicates of claims 31 and 33, respectively. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 35 and 37. Accordingly, this objection is moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

1. Chomier and Fujitani (claims 16-18, 20-28, 31-33, and 35-37)

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 16-18, 20-28, 31-33, and 35-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chomier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,858,276) in view of Fujitani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,019,928).

Claim 16, as amended, recites that a manufacturing method of a cross member comprises, *inter alia*, forming a plurality of ribs on the outer circumferential surface of the base frame wherein each of the ribs is arranged so as to connect each of the bosses, and each of the ribs has a height lower than the bosses, and forming reinforcing frame parts on the limited range of the base frame by means of insert-molding by filling up a cavity between the outer circumferential surface of the base frame and the inner surface of the molding die with

molten resin which is resinous material belonging to a same material system as the material of the base frame in a manner such that the molten resin flows between each of the plurality of bosses in the cavity and such that the molten resin flows along each of the plurality of ribs and the molten resin surmounts each of the ribs.

Consistent with the claimed invention, the molten resin can smoothly flow in the cavity so as to flow along each of the plurality of ribs and the molten resin surmounts each of the ribs. Accordingly, it is possible for the cavity to be smoothly and completely filled up with the molten resin so that the outer circumferential surface of the base frame, each of the bosses, and each of the ribs are smoothly and completely covered with the molten resin.

Chomier discloses an article comprising a rigid element 1 of rectilinear elongate shape and a part made of thermoplastic material 2 having a shape that is the conjugate of that of the rigid element 1 and having a hollow 4 (col. 6, lines 10-20). As shown in Fig. 3, the article can also comprise reinforcing ribs 20, and the rigid element 1 and the part of thermoplastic material 2 can be secured by thermoplastic material protruding 21 through an orifice pierced in the rigid element 1 (col. 6, lines 59-64).

In contrast to claim 16, Chomier fails to disclose or suggest ribs arranged so as to connect each of the bosses, and each of the ribs having a height lower than the bosses. Rather, as plainly shown in Fig. 3, there is only one boss 21, and that boss is in no way connected to the ribs 20.

Chomier also fails to disclose or suggest molten resin flows between each of the plurality of bosses in the cavity and such that the molten resin flows along each of the plurality of ribs and the molten resin surmounts each of the ribs, as recited in claim 16. Rather, Chomier discloses that molten resin flow into a pierced orifice to form boss 21, which secures the thermoplastic material 2 with the rigid element 1 (col. 6, lines 62-65), but does not disclose that the molten resin flows along or even contacts the ribs.

Even if combinable, Fujitani fails to cure the deficiencies of Chomier. Like Chomier, the projections (bosses) 11 of Fujitani are not connected by any rib nor does molten resin flow along or surmount ribs. Thus, Fujitani also fails to disclose or suggest ribs arranged so as to connect each of the bosses, and each of the ribs having a height lower than the bosses or that

molten resin flows between each of the plurality of bosses in the cavity and such that the molten resin flows along each of the plurality of ribs and the molten resin surmounts each of the ribs, as recited in claim 16.

Accordingly, claim 16 is patentably distinguishable from the combination of Chomier and Fujitani. Claims 17-18, 20-28, and 31 are also patentably distinguishable from the combination of Chomier and Fujitani by virtue of their dependence from claim 16, as well as their additional recitations.

2. Chomier, Fujitani, and Hier (claim 19)

On page 6 of the Office Action, claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chomier and Fujitani in view of Hier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,568,707).

Even if combinable, Hier fails to cure the deficiencies of Chomier and Fujitani. Like Chomier and Fujitani, Hier fails to disclose or suggest ribs arranged so as to connect each of the bosses, and each of the ribs having a height lower than the bosses or that molten resin flows between each of the plurality of bosses in the cavity and such that the molten resin flows along each of the plurality of ribs and the molten resin surmounts each of the ribs, as recited in claim 16.

Accordingly, claim 19 is patentably distinguishable from the combination of Chomier, Fujitani, and Hier by virtue of its dependence from claim 16, as well as its additional recitations.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated,

otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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